

KAISER'S VISIT TO VIENNA SOURCE OF SPECULATION

Reports of Effort to Force Austria into German Zollverein, and of Austrians and Bulgarians in Disagreement.

NO SOUND BASIS FOR RUMORS

Bulgaria Announces That Her Operations against Serbia Are Over—The Attitude of Greece towards the Entente Powers Not Clearly Defined.

London, Dec. 1.—(Empire) William's visit to Vienna, which coincided with the resignation of three of the Austrian cabinet ministers, is the cause of much speculation. The two events are variously assumed to be connected with the reported effort of Germany to force Austria into a German Zollverein, a desire of Emperor Francis Joseph to secure a separate peace through the intervention of Pope Benedict, and a rumored dispute between Austria and Bulgaria over the division of Serbian territory.

There naturally is no authoritative basis for any of these reports, beyond statements in the German newspapers that Emperor William's visit was one of the highest importance.

Meanwhile, the operations in the Balkans and the movements of the armies of the central powers continue with unabated activity. Like Germany, Bulgaria announces that with the capture of Ploesti her campaign against Serbia has come to an end, and that she is now in a position to turn her attention to the south. The suggestion that to avoid a dispute with Greece, King Ferdinand of Bulgaria has decided to accept the occupation of Monastir, the only town of any importance remaining in Serbian hands, is also without foundation.

Austria, with the assistance of some German troops, continues her operations against Montenegro, the frontier of which has been crossed, but without considerable opposition from the Montenegrins, who are holed up in the mountains. The Austro-Germans are advancing south from Srebrenica and across the frontier from Belgrade. In the north the Montenegrins claim to have defeated the Austrians in the region of Focchia, Bosnia. It is expected, however, that the Austro-Germans have provided sufficient forces to make sure of a successful campaign, as they did in the case of Serbia.

In southeastern Serbia, where the French, British and Serbians hold strong positions, the show still prevents any movements of importance. No news has been received of the Austrians and Germans who proceeded to Ruzhich, on the Danube river, to cooperate with a possible Russian invasion through Romania.

The attitude of Romania is still uncertain. The latest reports say that she, like Greece, is trying to remain neutral, but with two belligerent armies on her borders this, it is believed, may prove difficult.

Greece is heretofore to the latest note of the entente allies insists upon the maintenance of her neutrality and independence and a final settlement of the points at issue between the Helonic Kingdom and the entente powers is not yet in sight. Greece objects, according to despatches from Athens, to the evacuation of Salonika by her troops, the handing over of the railways to the entente allies and the policing by the latter of the frontier waters to prevent the activities of German submarines.

Vienna reports that during November the Austrian army of General Konev captured 90,000 Serbian troops and 20,000 prisoners for military service.

Along the Italian frontier, the Italian army has been launching attacks against the Austrians in an endeavor to obtain the Regio Triestina, which has been lessened generally, although at various points the big Italian army are still raining shells on the Austrian positions.

POSSIBILITY OF SUDDEN PEACE

Berlin Paper Says It Is Time to Discuss the Possibilities —Press Censors Are Arraigned.

Amsterdam, via London, Dec. 2.—(Press) The German press for the first time, in a discussion of peace in the newspapers, actually were under way in Germany and that a sudden peace was among the possibilities, are pointing to an editorial in the Berlin Vorwaerts as lending strength to their arguments.

The editorial in question quarrels with the German course for refusing to allow a discussion of peace in the newspapers and declares that it is certain most important facts are being suppressed.

"It is necessary at this time," says the editorial, "to discuss the possibilities of peace, because if peace comes suddenly a storm may arise for which only the diplomats and statesmen can be blamed. Public opinion will not tolerate peace without knowledge."

WAR DESPATCHES

Frankfurt, Dec. 1. via London.—A conference of railroad officials will be held Thursday at Temesvar, Hungary, preparatory to the establishment of direct express train service between Berlin and Constantinople, says a Constantinople despatch to the Frankfurter Zeitung.

London, Dec. 1.—Rumania will deliver an ultimatum to Austria as soon as the entente allies concentrate 200,000 men in the Balkans, says a Central News despatch from that city.

London, Dec. 1.—The British steamship Kingsway has been sunk. Her captain and 21 members of the crew have been landed. Five others are missing.

Paris, Dec. 1.—Partisans and adversaries of the government came to blows at the opening session of the Roumanian Parliament, telegraphs the Rome correspondent of the Matin. "King Ferdinand had hardly begun to read his speech when he was interrupted by cries of 'down with the government!' from M. Mille, leader of the interventionists and his adherents."

Vienna, Dec. 1.—It is declared in authoritative circles here that Emperor William's visit to Vienna was without particular political purpose.

Washington, Dec. 1.—The Austro-Hungarian government has informed Ambassador Poincaré at Vienna that it desires more time to complete a formal statement regarding the sinking of the Italian steamship Ancona. Advice to the state department today says the Austrian government had encountered difficulties in obtaining a statement from the commander of the submarine.

RESIGN FROM CABINET. Three Austrian Ministers Have Declined to Continue Longer in Office.

Amsterdam, Dec. 1. via London.—Reports that several members of the Austrian cabinet have resigned are confirmed by a dispatch from Vienna. Emperor Francis Joseph, published in the Wiener Zeitung of Vienna. The Emperor has accepted the resignations of Dr. Karl Heinold, minister of the interior; Dr. Rudolf Schuster von Boninot, minister of commerce and Baron Engel von Mautsieden, minister of finance.

No authentic information has been received concerning the state of affairs politically which brought about the retirement of the Austrian cabinet ministers, but their withdrawal and Emperor William's interview with Emperor Francis Joseph have given free rein to speculation concerning Austria's reported willingness to enter upon peace negotiations.

This is the most important change which has been made in the cabinets of the central powers during the war. These cabinet changes have remained virtually intact, although coalition governments have been formed in England and France and there have been a number of withdrawals from the Russian cabinet.

VILLA'S POWER BROKEN.

Two Generals Resign with 50 Other Officers of Their Command.

Los Angeles, Cal. Dec. 1.—Two Villa regiments, Gregorio Perez and El Jimenez, with 5000 men and 10000 horses, were captured after the battle on the Puente river in Sonora, were court martialed and shot, according to a telegram received to-day from General Obregon at Nogales by Arturo Gonzalez, Carranza commercial agent here.

Villa's power now has been completely broken, Obregon stated in his message.

Nogales, Ariz., Dec. 1.—Gen. Ubaldo Villa's Nagai Indian chief, with his entire command of 1,400 men, surrendered to Carranza army officers at Corbo, 20 miles south of here, according to a report which reached here late today.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Recognition of the de facto government in Mexico by Great Britain, Russia, Spain and Italy is expected soon by officials here.

Despatches to the Carranza agency to-day from General Obregon announced that 1,000 Villa troops of General Ubaldo's command had surrendered to General Flores.

According to General Obregon a lieutenant of General Villa's personal staff recently made prisoner said that Villa was showing signs of serious mental disorder.

WIN NAVY CHAMPIONSHIP.

New York, Dec. 1.—The sailors of the battleship Wyoming, of the Brooklyn navy yard, won the football championship of the Atlantic fleet by defeating the team of the New Hampshire, of the Norfolk station, in the final game of the series here to-day by 6 to 0.

DISCUSSION OF PEACE DEMANDED BY GERMAN PRESS

Berlin Tageblatt Approves Socialists' Plan to Ask Chancellor on What Condition He Will Begin Negotiations.

NOT ADMISSION OF WEAKNESS

Paper Says Question of Whether Peace Parleys Would Have Prospect of Success Should Be Discussed—What the Entente Thinks Not Important.

Berlin, Dec. 1. via London, Dec. 2.—The Berliner Tageblatt is the first newspaper to come out in approval of the plan of the social democrats to ask Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg under what conditions he is prepared to begin peace negotiations.

"For our part," says the newspaper, "we cannot see why such a question should not be directed to the chancellor or why he should not answer it. It is believed that an answer would be regarded abroad as a sign of 'weakness.' The military position of Germany and its allies is so strong that it should not bother us what the entente newspapers might write."

"The British place no such restrictions on themselves and care little what constructions are placed on this or that word."

"The second question is whether peace negotiations would have any prospect of success. Each peace desired, not alone in the present case, may be dashed on one of two rocks—on disintegration in the enemy's camp and on demands in our own. Perhaps we should come a step forward if the chancellor were to decide to throw a little light on the second point."

"In any case even though one may be very skeptical as to the success of the German people should not be denied this right, in view of the unusually favorable military situation, to question the responsible leader on the imperial policy regarding his intentions and the goal."

"It should be reiterated that there is not a trace of weakness in the German demand that the success of other candidates for the St. Peter's A. basketball team, he had been practicing on the basketball court for about half an hour and had left the court for a rest. It is believed that he went to the window for a breath of fresh air before resuming play and either from dizziness or some other mischance, lost his balance and fell to his death."

His companions missed Daley but thought nothing of his absence. About 15 minutes later Raymond Carroll, a member of the association, passed by the figure on the walk on his way to the building but did not investigate until he saw the open window in the hall. Dr. H. G. Gubhardt, health officer, was immediately summoned and found that the young man had been instantly killed by the fall. The body was removed to the rooms of a local undertaker and later to the home.

Young Daley, who was employed in the Rutland Railroad company office in the car accountants' department, was born in West Rutland July 7, 1884. His family moved here several years ago. He was graduated from the commercial department of St. Peter's parochial school. Besides his father, three brothers survive him, George, William and Joseph.

He was a pitcher on the St. Peter's baseball team last summer and had played on the team on the football team this fall and was considered certain of a regular place on the basketball team this winter.

BROWN PLEADS NOT GUILTY.

Rutland, Dec. 1.—E. H. Brown of this city, who, as stated by the Free Press yesterday, has been arrested on the charge of shooting a fawn in violation of law, demands a jury case in city court, and 12 men were summoned to-day and accepted by counsel to hear the case next Tuesday. Brown entered a plea of not guilty through W. H. Bedford, his counsel, and was permitted to go on his own recognizance. Judge F. G. Swinerton intimated to State's Attorney C. V. Poulin that he would rule that a fawn is a deer of the first year which will leave a deer of the first year which will leave nothing for the jury to decide except the age of the deer shot by Brown. The case will go to the supreme court by Brown's plea.

BURLINGTON BANKRUPTCY CASE.

Rutland, Dec. 1.—Arthur S. Holden of Burlington, an electrician, to-day filed a petition in bankruptcy in the office of Clerk F. S. Platt of the United States court. His liabilities are \$23,411, and he has assets of \$89, of which \$119 is claimed exempt. There are 15 unsecured creditors, the three largest accounts being as follows: Edna Holden, Burlington, \$200; Coghlin Electric company, \$10,722; John V. Kieselich, Burlington, \$4,814.

Joe Press is charged with receiving stolen goods.

St. Albans, Dec. 1.—Joe Press, arrested a week ago on the charge of receiving stolen goods in connection with the freight car robbery, appeared before Judge N. S. Post in city court to-day and furnished bail of \$1,500, and was released from jail.

EXHAUSTION NOT YET EVIDENT

Bulgarian Minister of Finance in Germany Also Says He Sees Victory for Central Powers.

Berlin, Dec. 1. (Wireless to Tuckerton) The Overseas News Agency says to-day: "No signs of exhaustion were visible." Thus the Bulgarian minister of finance, M. Toncheff, described the impressions he received during his recent trip through Germany. M. Toncheff also expressed confidence concerning the final outcome of the war and a lasting friendship between the central European allies—Bulgaria, Turkey, Austria-Hungary and Germany.

MURPHY STILL MISSING.

Final Statement of Bank Examiner Establishes Young Man's Integrity.

Rutland, Dec. 1.—A statement which proves beyond any doubt that the financial condition of the Marble Savings bank of this city was just as it should have been at the time of the disappearance of its treasurer, John J. Murphy of West Rutland, who has been missing since Friday night of last week, has been issued by the State bank examiner, Frank C. Williams of Newport. Mr. Murphy was traced as far as New York city but since Saturday night his friends and relatives have failed to obtain any trace.

The statement issued by Mr. Williams reads as follows:

"The bank commissioner and his assistant have completed the examination of the Marble Savings bank and find no evidence whatever of any misappropriation of funds or securities or alterations on the books by Treasurer Murphy or anyone connected with the bank."

"The depositors' accounts have been carefully examined and all the pass-books of accounts which the records of the bank show to have been closed are on file in the bank and have been verified and checked up. The interest accounts have been tested and proven in every possible way, except to call in the pass-books. The pass-books were called in two years ago and the depositors' accounts were listed and proved by the bank commissioner and clerk last July."

"Nothing has ever been discovered in former examinations and nothing is discovered in this examination which leads the bank commissioner to think that any accounts have been tampered with by any officer or employee of the bank. The record of the bank are in a very sound condition."

"The bank is very strong and no apprehension need be felt by any depositor that his deposit is not safe."

YOUNG MAN FALLS FROM THIRD STORY WINDOW TO DEATH

Shocking Accident to Charles Daley, 20, of Rutland—Victim Prominent in Athletics.

Rutland, Dec. 1.—Charles Daley, 20 years old, son of Anthony Daley of State street and one of the best all-around athletes in this city, was instantly killed at 7:30 o'clock to-night when he fell from a window in St. Peter's hall on the third floor of the parochial school building on River street.

Young Daley was standing in the open window when in some manner he lost his balance and fell to the hard walk three stories below, sustaining a broken neck and other injuries.

The window is located in the rear of the stage in St. Peter's hall and Daley was alone at the time of the accident. When a number of other candidates for the St. Peter's A. basketball team, he had been practicing on the basketball court for about half an hour and had left the court for a rest. It is believed that he went to the window for a breath of fresh air before resuming play and either from dizziness or some other mischance, lost his balance and fell to his death.

His companions missed Daley but thought nothing of his absence. About 15 minutes later Raymond Carroll, a member of the association, passed by the figure on the walk on his way to the building but did not investigate until he saw the open window in the hall. Dr. H. G. Gubhardt, health officer, was immediately summoned and found that the young man had been instantly killed by the fall. The body was removed to the rooms of a local undertaker and later to the home.

Young Daley, who was employed in the Rutland Railroad company office in the car accountants' department, was born in West Rutland July 7, 1884. His family moved here several years ago. He was graduated from the commercial department of St. Peter's parochial school. Besides his father, three brothers survive him, George, William and Joseph.

He was a pitcher on the St. Peter's baseball team last summer and had played on the team on the football team this fall and was considered certain of a regular place on the basketball team this winter.

GIVES BAIL OF \$1,500.

Joe Press is charged with receiving stolen goods.

St. Albans, Dec. 1.—Joe Press, arrested a week ago on the charge of receiving stolen goods in connection with the freight car robbery, appeared before Judge N. S. Post in city court to-day and furnished bail of \$1,500, and was released from jail.

HAPPENINGS IN THE STATE OF VERMONT

Local Items of Interest from All Parts of the Green Mountain State Condensed So That He Who Runs May Read.

THE NEWS BY COUNTIES

From the Island in the Lake to the Passumpsic, Along Otter Creek and Shores of White River. Covered by Our Special Correspondents.

ADDISON COUNTY MIDDLEBURY.

The engagement of Miss Elizabeth Bowles to Prof. Vernon C. Harrington was announced on Thursday morning. The bride will be married by the pastor, Mr. W. H. Eldridge of Twin Falls, Idaho, to Miss Grace Battelle of Twin Falls, formerly of Middlebury.

Mrs. John Brennan of St. Albans is visiting her son, Thomas Brennan, E. C. Brown has gone to Belvidere Falls for a few days. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mullen of Jamestown, N. Y., are visiting at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Buckley. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Robbins and daughter, Marjorie, have returned from Dighton, where they have been visiting relatives for a few days. Frank C. Archibald has returned to Manchester after a few days' visit in town with his sister, Miss Susan Archibald. Miss Mary Entine has returned to Southfield after a week's visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. Butterfield. J. B. Thibault, who has been visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Lavigne, Jr., has returned to his home in Ticonderoga, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. William Collins of South street are parents of a daughter, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Bacon and daughter of a daughter, born November 28-30, Thad M. Chapman has decided to leave Y. M. C. A. building which stands on the site known as the Chapman mill, a deserted lumber camp about six miles from this village, near the Abbey pond. The boys of the local Y. M. C. A. have fitted the building up and named it the "Warrior Plotter" and Frank Barnes spent Thanksgiving there. At the regular meeting of the Middlebury Grange, No. 215, Friday evening the following officers were elected: Master, Floyd Keese; overseer, Charles James; lecturer, Sam Samuel James; steward, Samuel James; assistant steward, Fanny Jones; chaplain, Homer Babin; treasurer, Harry L. Hunt; secretary, Mrs. Floyd Keese; gatekeeper, Arthur Leitch; crier, Mrs. Charles James; Pomona, Mrs. Westley Murdoch; Flora, Mrs. H. D. Archer; lady assistant steward, Miss Inez Lavick; chorister, the Rev. John Evans; soloist, Mrs. J. E. Bold. The installation of officers will be held some time in January. Miss Adelle Terrill of Malone, N. Y., is visiting at the home of Mrs. George Mellicham. Peter Ford, who recently sold his farm on South street to the Gorman Brothers, is moving his family to Pike River, Conn., where they will make their home. Mr. and Mrs. James Mellicham and niece, Miss Morse, have returned from Lowell, Mass., where they have been for 19 days. Robert Carmichael, president of the Green Mountain pulp company, has returned from New York much improved after taking a four weeks' treatment by a specialist. Miss Stella Turner has returned to Ferrisburgh after a week with her sister. Mrs. Caroline Hyde has moved to Rutland from Ferrisburgh street and will spend the winter with Mrs. Grosvenor. The Foreign and Home Mission societies of the Methodist church will meet with Mrs. J. E. Weeks Tuesday afternoon at three o'clock. Miss Ada Smith has returned to Ferrisburgh after a week's visit in town. Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Briggs and children, who have been visiting her sister, Mrs. F. J. Hubbard, for two weeks, have returned to Plymouth, Mass.

The cattle shipment Monday consisted of four carloads of cows, calves and hogs for the New York and Boston markets. Monday, market day, eggs brought from \$2 to 4 cents and butter 25 to 30.

Robert Lacy, the young man of Ferrisburgh, who was killed by a car on Monday, is not quite four years of age, not hold of a box of bromo quinine pills late Monday afternoon and ate quite a number of them before it was discovered what he was doing. Dr. S. S. Edly was summoned. The child is doing well, but it is fortunate that he was discovered when he was, as results might have been serious. Mrs. Helen Edly entertained the Soap club at her home on Weybridge street Tuesday evening. All were present and a very pleasant evening was spent. Refreshments were served. Miss Mary Signor has gone to Arlington to visit for a few days. Charles Lamorel has gone to Burlington for a few days' visit to his daughters and his family. C. H. Warr, who has returned from a few days in Vergennes—Ransom O'Brien is moving his household goods to the Pond house. After a shut down of several days work has been resumed at the local branch of the Vermont Marble company. Mr. and Mrs. William Damon of Sudbury, who have been visiting Mr. Damon's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robin E. Damon, in East Middlebury, have returned to Sudbury. Mrs. John H. Burns has returned from Saratoga, N. Y., where she has been for a few days the guest of friends. Mrs. John Thure, who was assisting at the Logan House during Mrs. Burns' absence, returned to her home in Rutland Tuesday.

Mrs. Mortimer V. Drake of Frommberg, N. Y., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Cushman. Mrs. R. T. Woodward, who was called here by the death of her nephew, Isaac Williams, Jr., has

NEW C. V. FREIGHT AGENT

N. W. Hawkes, 2510 15th St., N. W., (Don't Despatch Line in Boston, Succeeds D. T. Lawrence.

St. Albans, Dec. 1.—A circular issued from the office of President H. C. Smith of the Central Vermont Railway Co. announced the appointment of N. W. Hawkes to be general freight agent of the road to succeed D. T. Lawrence, who has been appointed a member of the freight classification committee of the trunk line association, with headquarters in New York. Mr. Hawkes assumed his new duties today.

Mr. Hawkes, a native of Appleton, Me., was born July 21, 1882. He received his education in the schools of Cambridge, Mass., and in 1900 entered the employ of the National Despatch line in Boston, where for a few years he has been chief clerk to C. J. Pierce, the general manager. Mr. Hawkes' wife and two children will come to St. Albans soon.

Mr. Lawrence has been general freight agent here since May, 1912. He was born in Mansfield, Ohio, in 1871, and since 1900, when he has an office here, he has been the general freight agent of the Central Vermont Railway Co. and Western and a Poughkeepsie, N. Y. He has been in railroad service, in 1892 he entered the employ of the National Despatch line and was manager of the National Despatch Co. Eastern line at Boston and Buffalo, N. Y., from 1904 until he came to the Central Vermont service.

returned to Warrensburg, N. Y., Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Fray have moved to the town, Fla., to spend the winter. Harry Smith, who has been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Smith, for a few days, has returned to his home in Springfield.

The C. J. Holt, Panama Grange held a well attended meeting with the Middlebury Grange. The program was as follows: Reading of the constitution, report of the committee on the Panama Grange, report of the committee on the Middlebury Grange, the master of the Vermont Grange responding after which the fifth degree was conferred on a large class. An interesting program was given by the master of the Panama Grange, Mr. J. E. Weeks, who is visiting in town and expects to remain until after Christmas.

Miss Anne Kelly, who has been visiting Miss Minnie McDonald, has returned to Pittsford. The case of Royal Boardman vs. Carl Frost, which occupied Judge Donovan's municipal court all day Tuesday and a portion of yesterday, Boardman trying to get damages from Frost for a collision with his wagon on May 21 last, resulted in a decision that there was no cause for action. Mark Turner has returned from Brandon. The Girls' Friendly society of St. Stephen's Episcopal church will hold a supper and social hour in the hall of the Y. M. C. A. on Wednesday evening. The evening-Lake Dunmore Lodge, No. 11, O. O. F., worked the initiatory degree on one candidate at their regular meeting Wednesday evening after which a social hour was enjoyed. There was a good attendance.

Miss Lizzie Turner is ill at her home in Franklin street. Merritt Stowe is in town for a few days. The Foreign and Home Mission society of the Methodist church held a well attended meeting with Mrs. J. E. Weeks at her home on South Pleasant street Tuesday afternoon.

VERGENNES.

The Rev. Thomas Stevenson has returned from a visit to former parishioners at Westford, N. H. The University of Vermont held the Thanksgiving recess with her mother, Mrs. Thomas Agan. Miss Sadie Burroughs of Poulney, who has been visiting her mother, Mrs. Marion Burroughs, went Saturday to the Mary Fletcher hospital, Burlington, to visit her brother, Herbert Burroughs, who is receiving treatment for one leg. Burroughs used last week to Woodstock to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mason Mills. John Donovan visited friends in Pittsford, N. Y., Saturday. S. C. Grinnell of Ticonderoga, N. Y., was a guest of John M. Allen Friday. Morgan of Keene, N. H., is visiting her granddaughter, Mrs. Frank M. Rogers. Eggs held here in the wholesale market Saturday for 12 cents per dozen. Miss Mildred Mooby has returned to Newark, N. J., after a visit to her mother, Mrs. Lillian Mooby. Miss Marjorie Grinnell returned Saturday to Ticonderoga, N. Y., after a visit to Miss Mary Allen.

The ladies of the Vergennes Grange will hold a Christmas sale and social hour in the Grange hall Saturday afternoon. The social club will meet Thursday afternoon at the Robinson Free library, Ferrisburgh Center. George Kirk of Albany, N. Y., called on friends here Monday. Miss Shilla Seybold, who has been the guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Adams, Jr., left Monday for her home in Wheeling, W. Va. On her way she will visit friends in New York. Joseph Duprey has moved his family to Constable, N. Y., where he has charge of the Sheffield Farms-Slawson Decker company's milk plant. June Decker company's milk plant. June Decker, who they spent Thanksgiving with Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Warren, George L. Morse of Milton visited friends in town yesterday. Lester Brown shot a deer Monday in the F. C. Ward neighborhood in Waltham. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Adams, Sr., visited in Burlington yesterday. John Gee was in Burlington last evening. Merritt Stowe of Middlebury was in town yesterday. Carl Evans was tried Friday before Judge James Donovan on the charge of simple assault on Miss Elsie Kimball. He was convicted and sentenced to the house of correction at Rutland for not less than four nor more than six months. Saturday he was taken to the Vermont State Prison at Danbury. Merritt Stowe, who is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Weeks, will hold a ladies' night and serve a venison supper at their lodge room Friday evening. The Rev. James Struthers will preach at the Baptist church Sunday. Patrick Kennedy was brought before Justice G. F. O. Kimball yesterday.

(Continued on page two)

ORIGIN OF GREAT POWDER EXPLOSION IS STILL A MYSTERY

An Official Statement Is to Effect That the Blast Was Due to an Accident—Sensational Rumors Afloat, However.

DEATH LIST REMAINS AT 30

Government Officials Watch Developments with Interest, but No Action in Regard to the Tragedy Is Ordered by Federal Department of Justice.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Nothing developed today that would throw any light on the cause of yesterday's explosion at the Du Pont black powder plant near here. Officials of the Du Pont company after an all-day investigation in a large force of experts are still unable to state the work of an outside agent. An official statement issued tonight merely said: "We have no ground to suspect the explosion was the result of anything other than an accident. The whole thing is shrouded in mystery. Unfortunately those who might have knowledge of the cause are dead. Many sensational rumors have been current but all grounded as far as our information goes. No rumors involving warning of planned explosions were posted at Crook's Point, N. J., or along the Brandywine creek here. Neither was an electric wire discovered leading to the plant from the opposite side of the creek, as was reported. The company has no reason to place any credence in reports that the disaster was the ill-fated work of any one outside the works."

The report that government agents would investigate the affair was news to the Du Pont officials. They said they had received no information to this effect from Washington.

Although a revised list of the dead placed the number at 25, it was learned tonight that Dr. Leslie Donahue, another workman, had not been seen since the disaster and it is feared he was killed. One of the many rumors circulated here to-day was that workmen in the Du Pont plant recently had discovered particles of steel filings or bits of nails in the powder under process of manufacture. These particles of metal, it was said, in passing through one of the presses used to mould the loose powder into blocks might have caused the spark that set off the blast. These reports, however, were emphatically denied by officials of the company.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Although officials here are watching with interest for developments in connection with the explosion in the Du Pont works at Wilmington, no action in regard to the tragedy has been ordered by the department of justice. Assistant Attorney General Varran, in charge of enforcement of neutrality laws, explained last night that under the general instructions to agents of the bureau of investigation, the Philadelphia office might inquire into the explosion and submit any information gathered to the proper federal or state authorities.

J. E. WEEKS PRESIDENT.

Addison Co. Agricultural Society Has Annual Meeting.

Middlebury, Dec. 1.—The annual meeting of the Addison County Agricultural society was held at the town hall this afternoon with a large attendance. President John E. Weeks presiding.

After the call was read by Secretary Frank C. Dyer of Salisbury, Mr. Dyer made the secretary's report, spoke appreciatively about William A. Lawrence of Bristol, a former president of the association and for several years a director. The election of officers resulted in John E. Weeks of Middlebury being unanimously re-elected president. Carl S. A. Isler of Middlebury was similarly elected first vice-president, and William C. Haest of Orwell second vice-president. The other officers are: Secretary, Frank C. Dyer of Salisbury; treasurer, Charles E. Rogers of Middlebury; assistant treasurer, Arthur W. Edley of Middlebury; directors for three years, William Noonan of Panton, Frank E. Foote of Cornwall, P. B. Norton of Addison, and H. V. Sears of Monkton; director for two years, Truman C. Varney of Bristol, elected to serve out the unexpired term of William S. Lawrence, recently of this town, and auditors, Joseph M. Burke of Middlebury, Charles A. Chapman of Ferrisburgh and John A. Fletcher of Middlebury.

The dates set for the next fair are August 25, 30, 31 and September 1. A meeting of the executive board will be held in January to appoint the remainder of the officers and participants for the different towns. It was voted that the prizes in the poultry classes at the next fair should be given only to Vermont producers of poultry.

Vt. Academy Champion.

Bellows Falls, Dec. 1.—The Vermont Academy football team has closed a very successful season, winning the championship of the interscholastic league which is comprised of Bellows Falls, H. S., Keene, N. H., H. S., Brattleboro, H. S. and Vermont Academy. The team won seven out of eight games and the undisputed championship of southern Vermont. In Vermont's one defeat of the season—the first game played at Rutland—it lined up with but a few days of preliminary work, and without any previous scrimmages. After this defeat the team won 7 straight games. The team has been coached by Fred L. Woodcock and is considered one of the best teams turned out by him since he first coached the eleven four years ago.

FIRE LOSS \$3,500.

Burn on Leggett Farm in Middlebury, Totally Destroyed.

Middlebury, Dec. 1.—A loss of \$3,500 was suffered to-night when the barn on the Robert H. Leggett farm, just outside the village limits on the Weybridge road, was burned to the ground. The barn contained farming tools and hay. The cause of the fire is unknown, even had been at work pressing hay in the barn during the day. The fire was discovered by Arthur Blinham. Heretofore work saved the other buildings. The loss is partially covered by insurance.

Close South Franklin Postoffice.

Enosburg Falls, Dec. 1.—The postoffice at South Franklin was discontinued to-day. It was established with the opening of the Middlebury Valley railroad in 1872. W. E. Gibson, carrier on rural route No. 1, will deliver the mail. The station will not be closed as was announced at one time. A. W. Smith will continue as station master.

Every day the classified "ads" are introducing the right workers to the right work.